

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action of March 8, 2007. Claims 1 – 25 were rejected. Claims 1 – 25 remain pending in the application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 – 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Shandony (U.S. Patent No. 6,675,261) in view of Mangat et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,049,799), hereinafter “Mangat.” Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections in light of the following remarks.

Claim 1 recites, in pertinent part:

1. A method comprising:
populating a directory with entries for each of a plurality of users of a multi-user computing environment, wherein each entry in the directory comprises a user ID and one or more group names, wherein each of the one or more group names corresponds to a group to which the user ID belongs, and wherein at least one of the entries in the directory comprises a first group name of the one or more group names;
determining a first group access control list for the first group name, wherein the first group access control list comprises the user IDs of users whose entries comprise the first group name, and wherein the first group access control list is stored outside of the directory;
for each data source in the multi-user computing environment which permits access by the first group name, granting access to the respective data source to the users in the first group access control list.

To establish a prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (C.C.P.A. 1974), MPEP 2143.03. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, taken individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the limitations recited in the claims.

In regard to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, taken individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest that a first group access control list (comprising the user IDs of users whose entries comprise the first group name) is stored outside of the directory, in combination with the remaining features of claim 1. The Office Action contends that Mangat teaches or suggests these limitations (in particular, at Figures 4 and 5; col. 2, lines 14-28; col. 12, lines 23-33; and col. 16, lines 13-21). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Mangat discloses a method and apparatus for maintaining, updating, finding, and re-making links between documents and consumers of those documents. Mangat also discloses a data structure created and maintained outside a directory services system for storing information about the documents. However, Mangat does not teach or suggest an access control list stored outside of the directory. To the contrary, Mangat teaches away from Applicant's claimed invention by disclosing that its group object (120), membership list (124), association lists (118, 136), and access rights (116, 122, 134) are stored within the directory services server (60) (see, e.g., Figures 2-5). Therefore, Mangat does not teach or suggest the limitation "wherein the first group access control list is stored outside of the directory," in combination with the remaining features of claim 1.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 10, and 17 are patentably distinct from the cited references. The remaining dependent claims provide additional limitations and are therefore thought allowable for at least the same reasons.

For example, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Shandony nor Mangat teaches or suggests the limitations recited in claim 3. Although Shandony discloses a policy URL (Uniform Resource Locator) obtained from a directory entry (see, e.g., Figure 69 and col. 70, line 60 to col. 71, line 47), and although a URL may include a hostname, Shandony does not teach or suggest "for each data source in the multi-user computing environment which permits access by the first hostname, granting access to the data source to the one or more users whose directory entries comprise the first hostname and who are seeking

access from the host having the first hostname” (emphasis added) in combination with the remaining features of claim 3. Claims 12 and 19 are thought allowable for at least the same reasons.

Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that claims 1 – 25 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejections.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If a phone interview would speed allowance of any pending claims, such is requested at the Examiner's convenience.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5181-82200/BNK.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Noël Kivlin', written over a horizontal line.

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